

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 50146

1. THE TABONES RANGE IS NOT A U.S. FACILITY NOR IS IT PART OF THE SUBIC NAVAL BASE. THE SO-CALLED "TABONES RANGE" IS FORMALLY TITLED THE "NAZASA BAY-TABONES ISLAND IMPACT AREA" WHICH IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. BY THE GOP ON A COMBINED USE BASIS. THE NAVY MAY HAVE MEANT TO REFER TO THE ZAMBALES RANGE WHICH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SUBIC NAVAL BASE AND IS ENCOMPASSED WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED BOUNDARIES OF THE BASE. THERE IS NO MORE NEED TO MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE ZAMBALES RANGE THAN IT WOULD BE TO OTHER INTEGRAL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE SUBIC RESERVATION SUCH AS THE MAGAZINE, THE AIRSTRIP, THE WATERSHED, ETC.

2. THE FORMAL STATUS OF THE NAZASA BAY-TABONES ISLAND IMPACT AREA IS DESCRIBED ON PAGE 5 OF THE ANNEX TO EMBASSY NOTE NO. 501 OF DEC 22, 1965 (TIAS 5294). THE PERTINENT PARAGRAPH READS:

QUOTE: IT IS FURTHER AGREED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT THE PHILIPPINES WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES THE FOLLOWING AREAS ON A COMBINED USE

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BASIS:

(A) NAZASA BAY-TABONES ISLAND IMPACT AREA.
(B) CABALLO CORREGIDOR-PRACTICE MINING AREA.
(C) SOUTHWEST ZAMBALES-TROOP TRAINING AREA...END
QUOTE. (THIS LATTER AREA SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH
THE ZAMBALES RANGE WHICH IS WITHIN THE SUBIC NAVAL BASE RESER-
VATION.)

3. SINCE THE NAVY HAS SURFACED THE QUESTION OF TRAINING
AREAS, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO
CONSIDER CONVERTING THE ZAMBALES RANGE, WHICH IS NOW PART
OF THE SUBIC BASE BUT LOCATED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE
BAY FROM THE MAIN SUBIC COMPLEX TO A COMBINED USE STATUS.
THE ZAMBALES RANGE IS NOW OCCASIONALLY USED FOR JOINT
EXERCISES AND FORMALLY CONVERTING IT TO A COMBINED OR
JOINT USE STATUS WOULD MERGE THE THREE TRAINING AREAS
(NAZASA BAY-TABONES ISLAND IMPACT AREA, SOUTHWEST ZAMBALES,
AND ZAMBALES) INTO ONE LARGE TRAINING AREA. MOREOVER, THIS
CONVERSION WOULD LEAVE THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF SQUATTERS
ON THE ZAMBALES RANGE TO THE GOP TO RESOLVE. THESE TRAIN-
ING AREAS INTER-CONNECT AND WOULD SEEM TO MAKE AN ATTRAC-
TIVE COMBINED USE PACKAGE. WE SUGGEST THAT THIS IDEA BE
EXPLORED WITH THE NAVY.

4. WE HAVE PURPOSEFULLY NOT RPT NOT INCLUDED THE BONIFACIO
PROPERTY IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT IS A DIPLOMATIC/
CONSULAR PROPERTY RATHER THAN MAILITARY. THE BONIFACIO
PROPERTY WAS ACCEPTED BY THE GOP AS A U.S. DIPLOMATIC/CON-
SULAR PROPERTY IN DFA NOTE NO. 3385 OF DEC 6, 1956 WHICH
FORMALLY AGREED TO THE TERMS OF EMBASSY NOTE NO. 0634 OF
DEC 5, 1956. WE HAVE NEVER, HOWEVER, RECEIVED FORMAL TITLE
TO THE BONIFACIO PROPERTY AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE
UPCOMING BASE NEGOTIATIONS MAY CREATE SOME OPPORTUNITIES
TO PICK ONE UP. WE WOULD LOOK UPON THIS, HOWEVER, AS A
POSSIBLE SIDE DEAL AND WOULD WANT TO KEEP THE BONIFACIO
DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY FORMALLY CLEAR OF THE ANTICIPATED SKIR-
MISHING OVER MILITARY REAL ESTATE. THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS
TO KEEP IT OUT OF OUR PROPOSED BASE AGREEMENT.
SULLIVAN

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